

The Rainbow Seniors Logo



**Promoting and addressing life issues affecting the  
general welfare of older gay, lesbian, bisexual,  
transgender, and intersex (GLBTI) individuals**

[RSWNY](#)[HOME](#)[ANNUAL  
REPORTS](#)[BY-LAWS](#)[COMMITTEES](#)[CONTACT LIST](#)[UPCOMING  
EVENTS](#)[NEWSLETTERS](#)[ARCHIVES](#)Empty Closet  
Articles

February 2005

[December/January  
2004-2005](#)[November 2004](#)[October 2004](#)[September 2004](#)[August 2004](#)[July 2004](#)[June 2004](#)[May 2004](#)[April 2004](#)[March 2004](#)[February 2004](#)[December 2003](#)

## *The Empty Closet*

### February 2005

#### Rainbow Elders of the Niagara Frontier

**By Danny Winter**

In March 2004 I celebrated my 70th birthday, and at the party my friends gave me I announced my intention of starting a seniors group in Buffalo. Shortly thereafter the Rainbow Seniors of Western New York contacted the Buffalo Pride Center about the possibility of getting a group started here. So I immediately got in touch with the Rochester folks, attended a monthly meeting, and became a member. Just one month later I became a member of their Board of Directors, and with their help I had the first meeting in Buffalo at the Pride Center.

We got off to a good start and actually outgrew the Pride Center meeting space, so we moved to the Aids Alliance location at Aids Community Services. We now meet there the first Sunday of every month and patterned our meetings like those in Rochester. We have a short business meeting followed by a planned program and then the potluck supper. Attendance has been steady and we feel it will continue to grow.

The Rochester group wanted to invite Buffalo to become part of their 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and checked it out with their attorney, who gave them the go ahead. We felt very honored and grateful by this generous offer and gave it a lot of soul- searching consideration, but we ultimately decided to try to go it on our own awhile to find out who we actually are and what we really want. That was when we changed our name to Rainbow Elders.

We now function as an organization with four officers: two chairpersons, a treasurer and a secretary. We try to schedule programs that are varied and interesting. For our December meeting we did Holiday Gift Baskets for the clients at Aids Alliance. In January we had a demonstration and lesson in Tai Chi by a member who is an instructor at Buffalo's largest Tai Chi studio. Other months we had a slide show presentation of Buffalo's Gay Archives and a talk by a man doing an historic study of Buffalo's gay bars.

We don't have membership per se, but our attendees come from all walks of life and almost all age groups. The common bond we all have is to meet safely with our peers (and their significant others or friends) in a non-bar setting. Each of us has her (his) individual reasons of course, but the important focus is on being comfortable with each other and having a time to be together for fellowship and fun.

We continue to interact with the Rochester group and plan to always do so. We will always want to visit them and have them visit us. And hopefully when we are better established and defined, we will revisit their offer of a partnership and be able to proceed with that initiative.

No matter what, we are all in the same "family".

[January 2004](#)

[November 2003](#)

[\*\*PHOTO  
COLLECTIONS\*\*](#)

[\*\*MEMBERSHIP  
FORM\*\*](#)

[\*\*FEEDBACK  
FORM\*\*](#)

[\*\*LINKS\*\*](#)



© 2004 by RSWNY. All rights reserved.

Designed by Karmicom Design.

[Click here to contact](#)